

CONFIDENTIAL
(When Filled In)

Date _____

1. Agency _____

Component/location _____

My position (job title) _____

Fields of responsibility (geographic area and/or specialty) _____

2. I have been contributing to the NIS for _____ years and have contributed a total of _____ sections.

Please specify NIS recently contributed	Area/topic	Year produced
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. The NIS effort took _____ 0 - 25% of my time during 1968 (please check)

_____ 26 - 50%

_____ 51 - 75%

_____ 76 - 100%

4. In addition to NIS, I contribute to the following intelligence products: _____

- 1 -
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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

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5. The following are ranked in the order that they apply to the circumstances under which I produce NIS, using 1 as most applicable:

- ____ a. Sufficient time to do a good job in appropriate depth
- ____ b. Barely adequate time to do a passable job
- ____ c. A better job could be done but only at the expense of other products
- ____ d. More than enough time to do a good job in appropriate depth
- ____ e. Often produced on a crash basis because other projects have higher priority

6. In preparing an NIS, I rely on the following sources (please specify percentage contribution of each):

- ____ % a. Other elements of the NIS
- ____ % b. Open (unclassified) literature or sources
- ____ % c. Classified documents (please give examples) _____

- ____ % d. Oral reports (debriefings, interviews)
- ____ % e. Other sources (please specify) _____

7. a. I spend ____ % of my NIS time in research.

b. I spend ____ % of my NIS time in writing.

8. Timeliness and quality of collection support for my NIS production needs are in general:

- ____ a. Reliable and adequate
- ____ b. Erratic but adequate
- ____ c. Unreliable and inadequate
- ____ d. Reliable but inadequate

9. My NIS research and writing efforts are:

- ____ a. Usually also applicable to other projects
- ____ b. Occasionally applicable to other projects
- ____ c. Not applicable to other projects
- ____ d. Duplicative of other projects

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10. My efforts on other products are:

- _____ a. Usually also applicable to the NIS
- _____ b. Occasionally applicable to the NIS
- _____ c. Not applicable to the NIS
- _____ d. Duplicative of the NIS

11. I consider my NIS product to be useful (responsive to consumer needs) on the basis of:

- _____ a. Direct consumer reaction
- _____ b. Indirect consumer reaction
- _____ c. Lack of complaints
- _____ d. I don't know whether it is useful
- _____ e. I don't consider it useful

12. I would consider the following mechanisms potentially the most helpful for guidance on NIS user needs. Rank using 1 as the highest:

- _____ a. Direct communication with user
- _____ b. Supervisory guidance
- _____ c. Incorporation of user needs into format/outline
- _____ d. Other (please specify) _____

13. On the basis of my experience the following changes would enhance production efficiency and increase product utility. (Such aspects as the type and level of guidance in NIS Standard Instructions, procedures for editorial worknotes and conferences, use of graphics, text/tabular balance, publication processing, and overall effectiveness of presentation might be discussed.) _____

(answer may be continued on the reverse)

Signature (optional)

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Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79B01737A000100050017-8

24 October 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: All NIS General Survey Contributing Offices

SUBJECT: Refocusing the General Survey

1. Returns of the recently conducted NIS User Survey include the views expressed by some users that the General Survey is, in many cases, too narrowly focused, easily outdated by events, and encumbered by extraneous detail. These comments imply that the General Survey has drifted from its assigned task of providing concise but summary basic intelligence that transcends the specialized needs of individual departments and agencies of the U.S. Government.

2. General Survey political coverage, for example, often stresses current analysis and highly perishable "slice in time" writing that requires constant updating during processing and that soon goes out of date when on the shelves. Current-type analysis that includes the names and background details of government functionaries requiring constant noting of dates reduces unnecessarily the durability of the information. In similar fashion, General Survey geographic coverage -- although the title of Section 2 was changed from Military Geography in 1967 -- continues to concentrate primarily on the specialized needs of the military.

3. It would appear that some refocusing of the General Survey is in order. First, the content should emphasize the overview function by further streamlining of presentation -- deemphasizing perishability and concentrating on those relatively enduring factors which are distinctive of particular country situations, which condition and reflect their peoples and institutions, and which tend to set parameters for change and development. Second, certain coverage which now primarily responds to specialized needs of particular users should be recast to increase the general interest content and to achieve closer interrelationship with related coverage appearing elsewhere in the General Survey. Relocation of some topics may be indicated.

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4. Accordingly, it is requested that all NIS producers review not only General Survey outline guides appropriate to their production responsibility but also their own detailed supplementary instructions to analysts. Appropriate staff personnel in OBGi are prepared to provide assistance in the drafting of new or revised instructions. Arrangements will be made to meet with contributing offices to work out the details.



JAMES A. BRAMMELL
Chairman
NIS Committee

25X1A

13 April 1970

National Intelligence Survey

1. What is the NIS?

In general terms, the National Intelligence Survey Program is the official basic intelligence encyclopedia of the U.S. Government on foreign areas of primary interest to the United States. It is factual information on the relatively unchanging natural features, fundamental characteristics, and basic resources of foreign areas, including their geography, transportation, communications, social characteristics, politics, economy, science, and armed forces.

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2. Why is NIS needed?

The NIS Program is the direct result of World War II experience -- when there was a dearth of usable information on foreign countries, friend and foe alike. In the Pacific, for example, the Navy and Marines launched amphibious operations against islands for which little reliable intelligence existed -- the inability of the Higgins boats to clear the reef at Betio Atoll is a prime example of operating in areas where intelligence is unconfirmed or nonexistent.

Ball
me Slide
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Well

Although steps had been taken to provide a structured program of coordinated, authoritative, and reliable basic intelligence as early as 1943, the NIS was officially established in January 1948 under the National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 3.

The NIS Program is fully coordinated among the most knowledgeable departments and agencies of the government to insure an authoritative and common intelligence base. Production responsibilities initially were allocated to the Department of State, Army, Navy, Air, and CIA and other agencies of the government best able to provide the variety of information and analysis required.

3. Why is the Program called National Intelligence?

The NIS is recognized to be national intelligence because its production transcends the competence of any one department or agency. Published and disseminated under the coordination responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence, NIS products are designed to satisfy the broad needs of the government rather than the specialized needs of any individual department or agency.

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4. What is the role of basic intelligence?

Basic intelligence takes its place along with current and estimative intelligence in support of national security planning. As shown in this slide, all three categories are needed. Using a tripod to illustrate, if any of the legs is removed or any fails to provide adequate support, the structure would fall. Current intelligence can be likened to the morning newspaper. Daily and

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naive
tail
white face

weekly intelligence bulletins, briefings, and memoranda prepared for White House consumption are examples. On the other hand, basic intelligence which must continually be updated by current intelligence, is the result of tedious research and analysis and provides factual background information against which the current analysis and reporting can be interpreted to form the sophisticated judgments about future developments that are found in our national estimates, the third category. In effect, each of these categories is dependent on the other for the accuracy and completeness of its own products.

5. What is the current NIS concept?

This slide is a more formal statement of the concept of the NIS Program. The features which set it apart from departmental basic intelligence have been sustained through its 20-year history. First, it is a coordinated interagency program directed toward community rather than individual department needs. Second, it provides an authoritative base or takeoff point for a variety of intelligence reports, briefings, and other publications. Third, and this is its most important feature, it is on-hand, readily available in crisis situations. While the NIS is comprehensive in scope, it is for various reasons, principally budgetary, selective in detail. It cannot hope to meet all the detailed specialized needs

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W.C.M.
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of the planners and operators in the Department of State, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the armed forces, and other agencies.

6. What are the NIS Products?

The NIS must at one and the same time be both inclusive in coverage and selective in detailed treatment. It includes, therefore, both concise summary overviews and more expanded detailed analysis of certain topics.

a. General Survey -- The basic unit is the General Survey, which provides comprehensive but concise coverage of the basic characteristics of the areas and, as shown in this slide, includes across-the-board topical coverage. Produced systematically on about 120 countries, it is revised periodically on an average cycle of 4 years -- with those countries of most immediate concern to the U.S. updated most frequently. The General Survey may provide the only NIS coverage on some countries. Barbados and Mongolia are examples.

b. Detailed units -- Complementing the General Survey, extensive coverage of certain topics for some areas is provided selectively in separate detailed NIS units. Such production is based on examination of individual country situations and an explicit determination that more detailed information is needed than is feasible in the balanced overview which the General Survey is designed to provide. Some topics, such as Topography, Ports and Naval

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#7

Picture
of Gen
Sur.
+ content

Slide

#8

Detail
of
Data

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Facilities, and Urban Areas, by their very nature, require large and numerous maps and other graphics -- too bulky for inclusion in the single-volume General Survey. These must necessarily be published as separate units.

Effective graphics presentation is a prime NIS objective. To illustrate, these slides have been taken directly from graphics appearing in NIS publications:

(1) A GEMINI shot of the Nile delta

Good

Slide #9

(2) Ethnic map of South Vietnam

Worked out

Slide #10

(3) Photo of Ecuador racial types

Black Spanish to Americans

Slide #11

(4) League of Communists of Yugoslavia

Hard to read

Slide #12

(5) Chart of military uniforms of South Vietnam Air Force

Good

Slide #13

c. Basic Intelligence Factbook -- Supplementing both the

General Survey and detailed units, the NIS Basic Intelligence Factbook provides semiannual updating of key political, economic, and military data, such as is highlighted in the Area Brief of each General Survey.

Slide #14

Covers 1/2 with page

The Factbook receives the widest dissemination of any single NIS product. Some 180 areas are included, and about 2,500 copies are disseminated.

d. NIS Gazetteers -- NIS gazetteers of geographic names,

Slide #15

with spellings and diacritics as approved by the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, have been issued on all areas of the world.

e. Inventory of Available NIS Publications -- An up-to-date listing of all the above NIS products available -- by individual country or area, individual section, and date of issuance -- is provided by the Quarterly Inventory of Available NIS Publications. Designed to facilitate ordering of NIS units, this listing is also bound into the concurrent Factbook.

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D. H.

7. How is the production and administration of NIS organized?

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The interagency aspect of the NIS is shown in this slide. In FY71, however, NIS production allocations will be limited to DIA and CIA supported by only two nonintelligence agencies, Census Bureau and the Business Defense Services Administration in Commerce. State Department, at one time a large NIS producer, now provides important advisory support, including field review of NIS sociological, political, and economic coverage.

(Flow
chart)
(OC)
as
described
in
comment

The NIS Committee, a permanent subcommittee of the United States Intelligence Board, assists USIB in providing policy direction to the NIS Program. The NIS Committee consists of a designated representative from the Department of State, CIA, DIA, and the Departments of Army, Navy, and Air Force. The CIA representative is the Chairman of the Committee. CIA is responsible for the general administration of the NIS Program and provides administrative and secretarial support to the Committee and its Chairman as a service of common concern.

8. How useful is the NIS?

As already indicated, the current series of NIS products is designed to satisfy more than one requirement level in terms of the detail provided. The Factbook is a frequently updated, quick rundown of key data about a country. The General Survey gives a concise, balanced, across-the-board overview. The detailed units selectively provide indepth analysis of certain topics of high national interest.

A recent government-wide survey of NIS usefulness, responded to by over 1,000 users, showed that 40% of all NIS use is for general background and orientation. Most responders who used NIS regularly found that it supplied information in a convenient assembled form not otherwise available. Some Foreign Service posts have made the NIS General Survey required reading for all new personnel as part of their indoctrination. The User Survey showed that almost 50% of the users had turned to the NIS in crash or crisis situations, indicating that the on-the-shelf availability of NIS is one of its most important features. Doubt frequently has been expressed about how a comprehensive and structured program like the NIS can possibly be kept up to date in a rapidly changing international scene. Current policy is to concentrate on what is underlying and enduring about a country, while deemphasizing the more perishable current and transient aspects. Interagency coordination

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How -
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- quality

and review are time-consuming elements of the NIS production process, but they pay off in terms of the image of reliability and authority that the NIS Program enjoys.

To insure that this image is sustained, an organized effort on the part of NIS policymakers is underway not only to gain a better insight into government requirements for basic intelligence but also to keep current and potential NIS users better informed as to the nature of the NIS products. This presentation is part of that new consumer-relations program.